

What is claimed is:

1. An authentication system used by a first application for managing user access to at least one of a plurality of network compatible applications, comprising:

an authentication processor for,

receiving user identification information including a user identifier and

initiating authentication of said user identification information using an authentication service; and

a communication processor for communicating an authentication service identifier and a corresponding user identifier to a managing application, said authentication service identifier identifying an authentication service used to authenticate identification information of said corresponding user.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein

said communication processor also communicates a session identifier identifying a user initiated session of operation of said first application to said managing application.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein

said user identification information includes a password associated with said user identifier.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein

said communication processor communicates said authentication service identifier and said corresponding user identifier to a managing application for compilation of a database.

5. A system according to claim 4, wherein

said database is accessible by other applications of said plurality of network compatible applications for mapping a non-authenticated user identifier of a participant application to an authenticated and different user identifier of another application.

6. An authentication system used for processing user access to network compatible applications, comprising:

an authentication processor for,

receiving authentication service identifier and corresponding user identifier data pairs from at least one of a plurality of applications,

compiling a database using said data pairs,

mapping a non-authenticated user identifier of a second application to an authenticated different user identifier of a first application using said database; and

a communication processor for communicating said authenticated different user identifier to said second application.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein

said authentication service identifier identifies an authentication service used to authenticate identification information comprising a user identifier of said corresponding user to provide an authenticated user identifier.

8. A system according to claim 6, wherein

said authentication processor performs said mapping using said database by matching an authentication service identifier of said second application with an authentication service identifier of said first application and providing said corresponding authenticated different user identifier of said first application as said mapped user identifier.

9. A system according to claim 6, including

an input processor for receiving a session identifier identifying a user initiated session of operation.

10. A system according to claim 6, wherein

said first application is a parent application and said second application is a child application and

said authenticated different user identifier of said first application is used by said second application eliminating the need for said second application to authenticate a user identifier.

11. A system according to claim 6, wherein  
said communication processor communicates a parameter to said  
second application, said parameter identifying success or failure of said mapping.

5 12. A system according to claim 6, wherein  
said authentication processor receives an authentication service  
identifier and corresponding user identifier data pair from said first application and  
said first application is a parent application and said second application  
is a child application.

10 13. A system according to claim 6, wherein  
said authentication service identifier employs a predetermined data  
format for use by said plurality of applications in constraining size of said database.

15 14. An authentication system used for processing user access to  
Internet compatible applications, comprising:  
an authentication processor for,  
receiving an authentication service identifier and corresponding  
user identifier from a parent application, and  
20 mapping a non-authenticated user identifier of a child  
application to an authenticated different user identifier of said parent application; and  
a communication processor for communicating said authenticated  
different user identifier to said child application.

25 15. A system according to claim 14, wherein  
said parent application establishes a session of user operation and  
said child application uses said authentication system to participate in  
said session of user operation.

30 16. A system according to claim 14, wherein  
said authentication processor compiles a database using data pairs  
comprising an authentication service identifier and corresponding user identifier and a  
data pair is received from individual applications of a plurality of concurrently  
operating Internet compatible applications and

35 said authentication processor uses said database in mapping said non-  
authenticated user identifier of said child application to said authenticated different  
user identifier of said parent application.

17. A system according to claim 16, wherein

said authentication processor performs said mapping using said database by matching an authentication service identifier of said child application with an authentication service identifier of said parent application and providing said corresponding authenticated different user identifier of said parent application as said mapped user identifier.

18. A system according to claim 14, wherein

said authentication service identifier identifies an authentication service used to authenticate identification information comprising a user identifier of said corresponding user to provide an authenticated user identifier.

19. A system according to claim 14, wherein

said authenticated different user identifier of said parent application is used by said child application eliminating the need for said child application to authenticate a user identifier.

20. A system according to claim 14, wherein

access to said child application by a user is enabled by said child application in response to receiving said authenticated different user identifier without a subsequent re-entry of user identification information via a logon menu.

21. An authentication method used for processing user access to Internet compatible applications, comprising the steps of:

receiving an authentication service identifier and corresponding user identifier from a parent application, and

mapping a non-authenticated user identifier of a child application to an authenticated different user identifier of said parent application; and

communicating said authenticated different user identifier to said child application.

22. A method according to claim 21, including the step of  
receiving data pairs, comprising an authentication service identifier  
and corresponding user identifier, from individual applications of a plurality of  
concurrently operating Internet compatible applications,

5           compiling a database using said data pairs, and  
          using said database in mapping said non-authenticated user identifier  
of said child application to said authenticated different user identifier of said parent  
application.

10           23. An authentication method used by a first application for managing  
user access to at least one of a plurality of network compatible applications,  
comprising the steps of:

          receiving user identification information including a user identifier;  
          initiating authentication of said user identification information using an  
15       authentication service; and

          communicating an authentication service identifier and a  
corresponding user identifier to a managing application, said authentication service  
identifier identifying an authentication service used to authenticate identification  
information of said corresponding user.

20